

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 013442

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 437 ACTION SECSTATE JAN 18.

QUOTE S E C R E T SEOUL 437

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJ: TONGSUN PARK ARRANGEMENTS: DISCUSSION WITH KCIA DIRECTOR

1. I MET TODAY WITH KCIA DIRECTOR KIM CHAE-IK FOR FIRST TIME IN SOME MONTHS. KIM WAS IN BUOYANT MOOD, CLEARLY VERY PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENTS AT END OF LAST YEAR ON BOTH TONGSUN PARK AFFAIR AND RELEASE OF MYONGDONG PRISONERS, AND POINTEDLY UP-BEAT ON QUESTION US-KOREAN RELATIONS. HE WAS HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY REGARDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT ON KOREA OF JANUARY 13 AND MADE CLEAR HE WAS REFLECTING NOT ONLY HIS OWN VIEWS BUT THOSE OF HIS BOSS, PRESIDENT PARK.

2. WE HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION REGARDING TONGSUN PARK

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AFFAIR, PARTICULARLY CONGRESSIONAL ASPECTS. DIRECTOR AGAIN ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT PARK PERSONALLY FINAL DECISIONS WHICH PERMITTED SETTLEMENT, WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BEARDING THE PRESIDENT. HE REFLECTED SATISFACTION WITH INTERROGATION AND OFFERED NO CONCERS REGARDING LIST OF KOREANS CIVILETTI HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED TO JUSTICE MINISTRY AS SUBJECTS OF

QUESTIONING OF TONGSUN PARK. ON CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM, DIRECTOR FELT THAT THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED DIRECTLY BETWEEN ETHICS COMMITTEES AND TONGSUN PARK AND HIS LAWYER. HE POINTED OUT THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CONGRESS AND THEREFORE IS NOT INVOLVED, BUT WOULD TRY TO BE QUOTE HELPFUL UNQUOTE IF NECESSARY. ON OTHER HAND, KIM MADE IT CLEAR THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT STAND ASIDE WITH RESPECT TO FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE OR EFFORTS TO SUBPOENA AMBASSADORS KIM AND HAMM.

3. AS I READ DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS, THEY CONFIRM MY IMPRESSION THAT ROKG OFFICIALLY DOES NOT WANT TO HAVE DIRECT ROLE IN ARRANGING TONGSUN PARK APPEARANCE BEFORE ETHICS COMMITTEES. HOWEVER, IT HAS ACCEPTED REALITY THAT SOME FORM OF APPEARANCE WILL BE NECESSARY AND WANTS TO LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS AND GROUNDRULES TO BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN COMMITTEES AND PARK. AT SAME TIME, IF LOGJAM OCCURS, I SUSPECT I CAN GET SOME BACKDOOR ASSISTANCE FROM DIRECTOR KIM.

4. I WOULD THEREFORE URGE THAT COMMITTEES BEGIN PROCESS OF COMMUNICATING WITH HUNDLEY TO WORK OUT GROUND RULES FOR TONGSUN PARK'S APPEARANCE, BOTH TONGSUN PARK AND HUNDLEY HAVE PUBLICLY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEES IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND CAPUTO TOLD ME SAME POSITION COMMUNICATED PRIVATELY TO HIM. GROUND RULES
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SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY WITH OUR STAYING OUTSIDE AND NOT BECOMING BROKER.
SNEIDER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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